

HARDWOOD FLOORS.

They Should Always Be Swept with a Covered Broom.

The hardwood floor is comparatively a new feature of the house, and it is not altogether strange that housekeepers do not always know just how to take care of them. Many of them treat them as they do a carpet, sweeping them with a broom-corn broom, which is intended well enough to take the dust out of the meshes of a carpet, but not to polish a hardwood surface.

The same woman who treats her hardwood floor in this way would refuse to sweep off her piano with a broom-corn broom, for fear of scratching it. She would probably take a soft cotton-flannel duster and wipe off the dust, and this is exactly what she should do with her floor. The most convenient way of doing it is to make a soft cotton-flannel bag for the broom. The dust is easily removed from a polished floor in this way.

Such a covered broom is also useful sweeping down the walls, though a feather duster accomplishes this work more successfully. There ought to be a number of these broom-covers ready, so that when they become soiled they may be washed. Painted piazzas may also be much more successfully swept with a covered broom of this sort than in any other way. Even when it needs a scrubbing-brush, if it is well swept with a covered broom, it will look almost as well as if it had been scrubbed with a brush, and certainly better than if it had been cleaned with a mop.—N. Y. Tribune.

HAT PIN CUSHIONS.

Two Pretty Designs Which Can Be Made at Small Cost.

In these days when hat pins are as much of a fad and of a necessity withal, as stick pins, it is desirable that appropriate receptacles be provided for them in order that they shall not mar the dainty toilet cushion with their huge perforations. Where a suspended cushion seems most convenient the always attractive little Japanese doll may be utilized. Choose one with a head measuring six inches in circumference. To dress one, as shown in Fig. 2 in the illustration, fold a half-yard of three-inch ribbon together and crease it to designate the bottom of the cushion. Sew thirteen small gilt spangles along the bottom, with a gilt bead in the middle of each to fasten it on. Overhand the sides of the ribbon to within an inch and a half of the opposite end; stuff with hair or wool and fasten it around the doll's neck. A half yard of the same ribbon is cut in two and folded lengthwise for the sleeves; overhand, turn in the ends at the bottom, and attach to the dress at the shoulder. Now take a yard and a quarter of half-inch ribbon, fasten it over the shoulder and tie about the waist with bow and ends in front, although the really Japanese lady always wears her sash ends behind, neatly tucked up into a sort of roll or cushion. A loop of this same ribbon is fastened to the belt in the back to sus-

pend the cushion by. Decorate the sleeves and shoulder straps with spangles and beads, and finish with a fringe of the beads. Letter on the skirt "Hat Pins" in gilt, forming the letters to look as much like Japanese characters as possible.

The standard cushion shown in Fig. 1 requires a bit of thin cardboard, five by nine inches, for the sides of the



FIG. 1.



FIG. 2.

foundation, and a circular piece two and a half inches in diameter for the bottom. Cover these with any pretty scrap of silk or plush, fitting the outside snugly about the cardboard, which you have sewn in a cylinder; sew in a piece three and a half inches in diameter for the top, leaving an aperture through which you may stuff the cushion, rounding up the top. If all your toilet appointments are white, cover this with a ruffle of lace of fine dotted Swiss, and tie at the bottom bows and loops of narrow ribbon.—American Agriculturist.

Who Might Mamma Be?

Bottesini, the celebrated double-bass soloist, was once engaged to play at a concert at Monte Carlo. At the end of the performance a young lady walked up to him, and, shaking hands, made some complimentary remarks on the concert. "I remember seeing you at mamma's," she said. "And who might your mamma be?" asked the musician, who had been wondering who the young lady was: "Oh, the queen of England!" replied the lady, who was none other than the present Empress Frederick.

Beware of Yellow Green.

Yellow green is a color to be sparingly and cautiously worn. It is rarely becoming, and has a pitiless tendency to bring out in bold relief every trace of illness or fatigue in those who may sometimes don it with impunity. Such a color should never be selected for a gown, or its garniture, which must be often used.

Sensational Reading and Nerves.

The doctor who was conducting a class in physiology lately took occasion to plead with her girl hearers to leave the sensations of the press severely alone: "Nothing is so bad for the nerves," she said, "as to read of murders and of other cruelties. I beg of you not to do it."

FOOD FOR INVALIDS.

How to Cook Things So as to Tempt the Delicate Appetite.

Eggs for the sick should be coddled instead of boiled. Boiled renders the white of the egg tough and indigestible, even in those which are termed "soft boiled." To coddle an egg, put it in a quart cup and fill nearly to the brim with boiling water. Let it stand on the back part of the stove (where it cannot even simmer) for five minutes. The white will be found a delicate jelly, and the whole perfectly wholesome and delicious.

Milk is now given in all forms of illness, and especially those in which solid food is prohibited. The old fancy that it raises the temperature, and thus proves injurious in inflammatory disease, has long been dissipated. Hot milk is a valuable stimulant, and proves a most excellent tonic. It should not be permitted to boil, but simply raised to a temperature as hot as proves comfortable in drinking; it should be drunk from a spoon, as this slow method insures better digestion. When pure milk disagrees with the patient, a tablespoonful of lime water added to a glassful, or half a pint, overcomes this objection.

A potato baked with the skin unbroken is rich in nutrition, and agreeable to the palate. The addition of a little salt and a tablespoonful of rich sweet cream renders it truly delicious.—Ingalls' Home Magazine.

BOOKS AND BOOK WRITERS.

SWINBURNE'S favorite exercise is swimming.

MR. HALL CAINE'S somber story, "The Manxman," is nearly ready for publication.

THERE are ten thousand copyrighted volumes of American poetry in the Congressional library at Washington.

MR. RIDER HAGGARD has changed the title of his new novel, and it is to appear under the name of "Joan Haste."

It is intended to publish a volume of the "Table Talk" of the Prof. Jowett, master of Balliol college, Oxford.

SIR ISAAC PITMAN, shorthand inventor, has issued a library of about eighty volumes, printed entirely in shorthand, ranging from the Bible to "Rasselas."

AMONG THE QUARRIES.

IN England and Wales there are 26,813 stone quarries.

THERE are four or five hundred marble quarries at Carrara.

THREE deaths out of every two hundred which occur among quarrymen are due to accident.

ABOUT 160,000 tons of marble, the finest in the world, are exported annually from Carrara, mostly to America.

THE entire mass of the Monte Carrara, 5,600 feet high, which dominates Carrara, is solid marble; it is inexhaustible.

THE supply of slate for home consumption and export in England and Wales is obtained from their 13,703 quarries.